



## ATCA Board Update

### Kia ora!

**kia ora** is a Māori language greeting which has entered New Zealand English. It means literally "be well/healthy" and is translated as an informal "hi". The New Zealand Ministry for Culture and Heritage lists it as one of 100 Māori words every New Zealander should know, with a definition "Hi!, G'day!" (Wikipedia)



### *Hongi, a Maori greeting - sharing the breath of life.*

As part of its commitment to spreading the word on the value of Therapeutic Communities, the Board of ATCA has continued to hold meetings in different parts of Australia and New Zealand. December's meeting was in Western Australia where we held a public forum and accompanied interested parties to Cyrenian House and Palmerston.

This month we went across the ditch to New Zealand where we held a community forum at Higher Ground and 'kia ora' was the greeting we received every where we went.

Our welcome onto the Higher Ground site was a moving experience where residents and staff greeted us with the traditional Haka, as well as a song and words of warmth- this was the powhiri or welcome ceremony. A similar greeting took place at Odyssey House. Little did we know that it is tradition for the guests to sing in response to the greeting, so without rehearsal and only a few minutes notice the Board launched into 'Advance Australia Fair'.....this was not in the job description when we signed on!!

Items on the Board meeting agenda included a discussion on membership structure, the compliance survey that was circulated to members, risk management strategies and a review of management policies. Planning for the ATCA Conference in September was reviewed and Lynne Magor-Blatch and her team in Canberra were commended for their advanced state of preparations for this Conference. Once again a reminder to book accommodation early if you plan to attend this Conference which I can highly recommend. This will be a great opportunity to showcase TCs and the

work that they do to the Commonwealth Government so please give some thought to being there.

The other major project currently being overseen by the ATCA Board is the Standards Project. Jill Rundle has been travelling across the country consulting with staff from member agencies and has been overwhelmed by the response from residents and staff to her survey. The Board has reviewed the first draft of the Standards and has been very impressed with the quality of the work completed and the effective way in which the Standards are designed so that they can be easily integrated into existing accreditation processes. Work has commenced on the training package which will accompany the Standards and we are looking forward to the final result.

The Board has also been to Canberra seeking a continuation of funding for the Secretariat and a proposal to expand the Secretariat so that assistance in implementing the Standards can be provided to current and provisional members. At this stage we are not encouraged by the response that we received and so we will continue to lobby the Minister for Health. Your assistance in doing this would be appreciated and we will be in touch to let you know how you can help. ATCA is at a critical point in its development. Since establishing the Secretariat and employing Janice Jones we have increased the membership from 27 to 45. Janice has been tireless in her efforts to meet and support member agencies and to promote the work of the Association. If you have an opportunity to garner support for our Association now would be the time to do it.

*Barry Evans, Chairperson*

## Secretariat Update

Thank you to all the ATCA members who took time out to complete the on-line compliance survey. Ninety percent of our members completed the survey which indicates the importance you place on this issue which impacts on resources and service delivery. The ANCD will release the report in March.

Many of you will have been involved in the first stage of consultations for our Standards and Training project. Your input to this project is invaluable as Jill works toward developing standards that will not impact too heavily on your workload but ensure the standards of the Therapeutic Community model are maintained.

ATCA's next Board meeting will be in Adelaide on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Again this will be combined with a community forum which will include The Woolshed and Kuitpo communities. If you would like to have a matter listed on the agenda for the Board meeting please email [atca@atca.com.au](mailto:atca@atca.com.au).

We have contributions from two of our members for this edition of the ATCA E-NEWS, Odyssey House Victoria and Fresh Hope. The E-NEWS is published bi-monthly to provide an informative networking tool for our members so please think about what you would like to contribute to our April edition. Send us your news, letters or suggestions to [Janice@atca.com.au](mailto:Janice@atca.com.au)

## TC News

Announcing ATCA's first Tasmanian member **City Mission**. Their program **Missiondale Recovery Centre** in Evandale currently caters for 16 male clients, 6 female clients and two families. Welcome to Stuart Smith, the staff and residents at Missiondale.

**Odyssey House Victoria** is excited to announce the re-opening of its Circuit Breaker program near Benalla in North East Victoria.

The program is a six week time limited Therapeutic Community that gives individuals the opportunity to have a meaningful group based experience bridging former chaotic lifestyles to adaptive responsible ways of coping and living.

The program has been given over two years funding through the National illicit drug strategy. After running the program twice for six months this new funding serves as an endorsement of the hard work put in by the staff and residents in its two previous periods of operation.

We are delighted that so many of the former staff of the Circuit Breaker program have returned to help get the program of on the right foot once again.

We would also like to thank all those who have supported us in the past and continue to do so now.

We look forward to providing the people of the Hume region a credible treatment experience at the Odyssey Circuit Breaker.

Enquiries and referrals can be made to Kate Daniel or Andy Hick on 03 57666399

**Fresh Hope** has received a vital boost to its resources with the donation of a house from Acland Coal Pty Ltd (NAC) as part of its community development scheme.

The house was relocated to the Fresh Hope property on the Darling Downs and following relocation was renovated by many hardworking Fresh Hope volunteers.

Fresh Hope's President Mary Jibson said; "Fresh Hope relies on the generosity of volunteers, community organisations, businesses and government funding to provide support services to women and children. The house is an integral part of our program's infrastructure and success".



*Cutting the ribbon at the official opening of the "House of Naomi" is Mr. Ray Hopper MP, Member for Darling Downs QLD together with John & Karen Bartlett and Mary Jibson*

## 2009 ATCA Conference

Conference & Workshops 14 - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**"TCs: Getting better all the time - Partnerships, practice & collaboration"**

**The Rydges Hotel, Capital Hill, Canberra**

Congratulations to the ATCA Conference Organising Committee for pulling together what promises to be an excellent conference this year.

As well as attracting guest speakers Dr. Joel Porter, Christine King, Dr. Bob Jacobs and Lauren Porter the program also includes Virginia Hart, Assistant Secretary, Drug Strategy Branch DoHA and Barry Sanderson, Group Manager, Families Group, FAHCSIA who will comment on policy direction in the AOD & Supporting Families sectors.

Offering a range of streams, ATCA also invites applications for presentation of papers, project snapshots, agency displays, seminars and/or workshops which will address the following themes:

- **Comorbidity:** same people different settings?
- **Indigenous Cultural Issues** here and across the water. What can we learn?
- **Corrections** - Drugs & Mental Health, getting the mix right for rehabilitation.
- **Families** - working with complexities.
- **Youth** - More understanding & less pathologising.

### Accommodation

We suggest you book your accommodation early as springtime in Canberra is very busy. The conference organizers have negotiated special rates at the following hotels:

**The Rydges Hotel**, Capital Hill (02) 6295 3144, Superior Queen & Twin Rooms at \$199 per room (based on double or twin occupancy). Breakfast is an additional \$18 per person. Please quote Block Code R-1309ATCA when booking.

**The Diplomat Hotel**, Manuka (02) 6295 2277, Standard rooms \$174 and Deluxe rooms \$185 (based on double or twin occupancy). Breakfast is additional. Please quote Group Number 61930.

To access the **Call for Abstracts** plus **Conference & workshops** information including the registration form visit the ATCA website: [www.atca.com.au](http://www.atca.com.au)

## Other Conferences & Events

**Australian Winterschool Symposium**  
**Integration: Research, Policy & Practice**  
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Brisbane  
<http://www.winterschool.info/>

**Wollongong Crisis Centre**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Renaming Launch**  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2009. Wollongong  
[Vicki@waples.com.au](mailto:Vicki@waples.com.au)

**12th E.F.T.C Conference**  
**Rehabilitation and Drug Policy**  
2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The Hague, The Netherlands.  
[www.eftc-bepartofthesolution.eu](http://www.eftc-bepartofthesolution.eu)